

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 080355Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5447

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4058

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, CI

SUBJ: MILITARY THREAT TO ALLENDE CONTINUES

PASS AMBASSADOR DAVIS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO DEFUSE NAVY CRISIS OVER ISSUE OF REPLACEMENT OF CINC MONTERO AND CONSISTENT THRUST OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THROUGHOUT SEPT 7 INDICATE SERIOUS THREAT TO ALLENDE FROM MILITARY CONTINUES.

1. KEY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF SEPT 7 ARE:

(A) ALLENDE MET WITH ADM MERINO AT MID DAY SEPT 7 AND TRIED TO STALL APPOINTMENT OF MERINO AS NAVY CINC UNTIL WEDNESDAY SEPT 11. NAVY COMMANDERS FOUND THIS PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE. THIS OF COURSE LEAVES NAVY AT FLASHPOINT. VERY RELIABLE NAVY SOURCE REPORTS SEPT 8 COULD BE "D-DAY" FOR MILITARY MOVE AGAINST GOVERNMENT. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION INDICATES NAVY ADMIRALS NO LONGER DEBATING WHETHER TO MOVE BUT ONLY WHEN -- SEPT 8, 9, OR 10.

(B) AIR FORCE SOURCE CLOSE TO CINC LEIGH REPORTS THINGS UNSETTLED IN NAVY AND QTE WE MAY HAVE TO MOVE IN TO HELP THEM END QTE. AIR FORCE STAFF AND EL BOSQUE AFB ON ALERT.

(C) KEY ARMY PLOTTER GEN ARELLANO IS REPORTED TO SAY HE IS NOW READY TO MOVE, SUGGESTING HE HAS FIRMED UP SUPPORT AMONG KEY
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REGIMENTAL TROOP COMMANDERS.

(D) ADM CARVAJAL, CHIEF OF JOINT DEFENSE STAFF, AIR FORCE CINC LEIGH AND ARMY CINC PINOCHET MET AFTERNOON SEPT 7 AND AGREED TO MOVE AGAINST GOVERNMENT AT 0800 MONDAY SEPT 10 WHATEVER ALLENDE MIGHT DO.

(E) WE HAVE A REPORT THAT CIVILIAN GROUPS RESPONSIVE TO EXTREME RIGHTIST DIRECTION HAVE PLAN TO MOVE ON SANTIAGO MONDAY SEPT 10 DISRUPTING COMMUNICATIONS AND STAGING DEMONSTRATIONS. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION INDICATES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AWARE OF MOVEMENTS INTO SANTIAGO FROM PROVINCES OF MEMBERS PATRIA Y LIBERTAD AND NATIONAL PARTY YOUTH BRIGADE.

2. GIVEN VOLUME AND CONSISTENCY OF INTELLIGENCE WE RECEIVING, WE MUST ASSUME ALLENDE ALSO AWARE OF THREAT FROM MILITARY AND WILL USE WHAT MANEUVER-ROOM HE HAS TO TRY TO PROTECT HIMSELF.

THOMPSON

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NNN

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